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Why did I chose a rabbit as my hero? Once I had the basic premise of the boy changing into a super animal I knew this animal would have to be BIG! Being a fan of the super funny animals of the 40s, rabbits were always the largest...so I chose the rabbit.

MARTIN L. GREIM
June 24, 1986

THUNDER BUNNY was not the first super rabbit to make the comic scene, but he's certainly head and shoulders above the others in the art and prose departments. His immediate predecessor was Scott Shaw's CAPTAIN CARROT, but he's more closely related to SUPER RABBIT who made his debut in COMEDY COMICS 14 in 1943 and later had a short run in his own title. Bugs Bunny appeared in an animated cartoon, SUPER RABBIT, in April of 1943, and there is probably a connection between the two, but it's more likely that both were take-offs on the popularity of SUPERMAN. America was at war with Italy, Germany, and Japan in the early forties and superheroism grew in popularity as the comic characters were tied in to the war effort. Like SUPERMAN, SUPER RABBIT fought spies and he always won. As they had been since the days of Aesop, the funny animals were a parody of human life. Everything came together in these comic stories, most of which were drawn by moon-lighting animators. SUPERMAN was from outer space, though his predecessor, Hugo Danner in Philip Wylie and Edwin Balmer's GLADIATOR (1930), was created by his scientist father who shot up his mother with a concoction of fluids derived from insects; indeed, the early Siegel and Schuster Superman didn't fly at all; he leaped tall buidlings with a single bound--just like a grasshopper. If this chemical injection origin sounds familiar, it's because Ditko and Lee lifted it for SPIDER-MAN. C. C. Beck frowned upon chemistry, made his villain a scientist named SIVANA, and used magic to change his newsboy Billy Batson into Captain Marvel. Billy inherited the strength of Atlas and the power and wisdom of a number of other ancient gods simply by pronouncing an acronym of their first initials, SHAZAM! This magic word worked in the animal world for Hoppy, who became the Marvel Bunny in Fawcett's FUNNY ANIMALS in December of 1942. To get Super Rabbit into action, Waffles, the shoe-shine bunny, had to rub his magic ring, but Bobby Caswell has only to think of the image of Thunder Bunny and clap his hands. His problem in this post-psychoneurotic period of comic superheroes is that he must be able to remember what Bobby Caswell looks like in order to get back to him and he worries that one day he just might not be able to remember his fourteen-year-old alter-ego and have to remain a giant rabbit forever. Fighting Villains and protecting the innocent may be fun for a few hours once in awhile, but, hey, not all the time!

Actually, Thunder Bunny is no more a bunny than Bugs or Super Rabbit were. A bunny is a cute little rabbit, the kind one finds on nursery wallpaper and terminally sentimental greeting cards. Being a linear descendent of Bugs and SR and Hoppy, Thunder Bunny is a hare, the latest in a line which descends from Aesop's hare through various incarnations including the harlequin hare (1806), Carroll's March Hare (1865), Potter's Peter (1902), Garis's Uncle Wiggily Longears (1910), Burgess's Peter Rabbit (1910); indeed, the rabbit characters that proliferate children's literature have all been hares, rabbits and their babies (bunnies) being short of paw and living in burrows. It is the hare that stands upright and watches for the hunter, the hare that runs at speeds up to 45 mph, the hare that has inspired poetry and prose and comic and cartoon art. Thunder Bunny combines a lot of different aspects of the early comic hares. He is a human with a small hare's head and an enormous physique. When Bobby becomes Thunder Bunny, he loses a finger on each hand. The lightning bolt on his chest is that of Captain Marvel or Hoppy. His boots could have come off a pirate in a Howard Pyle drawing.

In the Archie BLUE RIBBON 13, TB was a pink rabbit, his costume red, the inside of his cape blue, traditional colors of the patriotic American superhero. His costume remained unchanged in 1965 when WARP ran THUNDER BUNNY 1. TB has a more humanoid face than SUPER RABBIT or BUGS BUNNY and a much wider range of facial expression. Greim's plotlines and characterizations are tight and TB does not hop, he flies right into the heat of battle.

WARP is up to the sixth issue of this extraordinary character's bizarre history. It all started in 1960 when TB first appeared in MASS FAN NEWSLETTER. In 1977, he appeared in COMIC CRUSADER STORYBOOK. In 1982, TB hit the slicks in CHARLTON BULLSEYE 6 (where he first got the red costume--it was blue in the early days.). In BULLSEYE 10, TB was the whole show. in 1984, Red Circle did TB #1,and he appeared in PEP 393 and MIGHTY CRUSADERS 7, followed closely by BLUE RIBBON 13 in which he met the Mighty Crusaders. TB could be the greatest of all the fantasy hares; all he needs is a t-v series and a feature film. -CLAY GEERDES

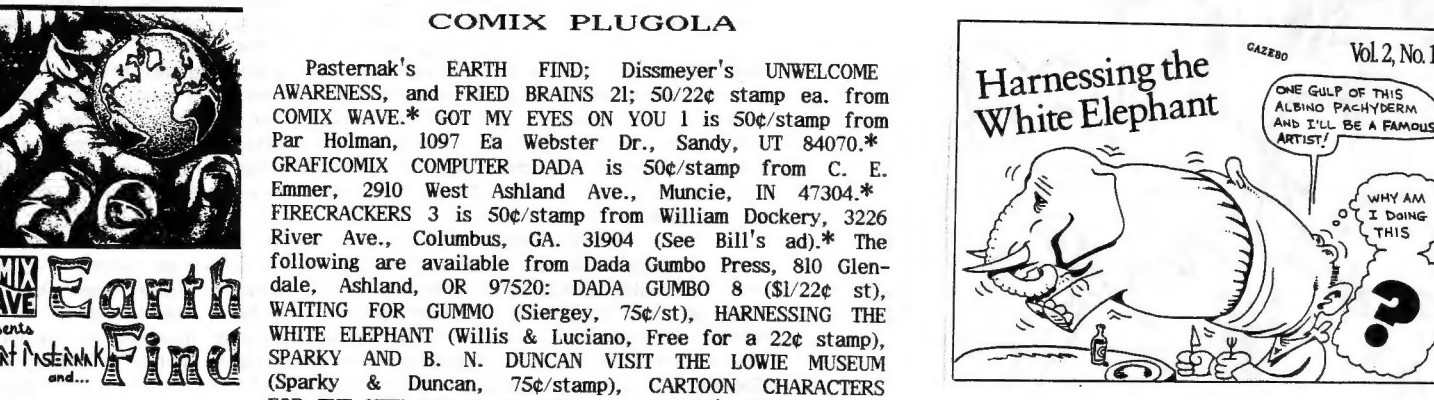
LET'S GO TO THE CLEARING BY THE FREEWAY AND WATCH FOR FALLING STARS.
IS IT SAFE
OUCH!
WOW! YOU CAUGHT A FALLING STAR!
NO! MORE LIKE A CIGARETTE BUTT FROM A PASSING CAR!
D.MILLER

LOOK OUT
THUD
WHA.....
LUCKY FOR ME YOU WERE HERE TO BREAK MY FALL!
BUT I THOUGHT I HAD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY, OFFICER!
YUP! THEY CAN EVICT EARNEST T. WORM BUT THE LAUGH IS ON THEM!
POP
D.Miller
WHEN EARNEST T. WORM GETS KICKED OUT OF A TREE HE TAKES HIS APPLE WITH HIM!

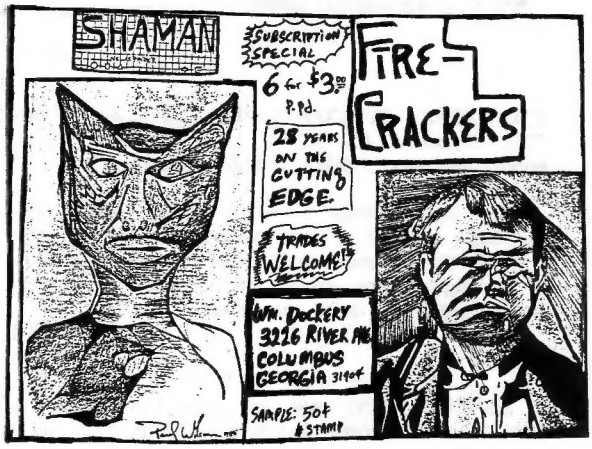
COMIX WAVE Presents ROBERT PASTERNAK and... Earth Find

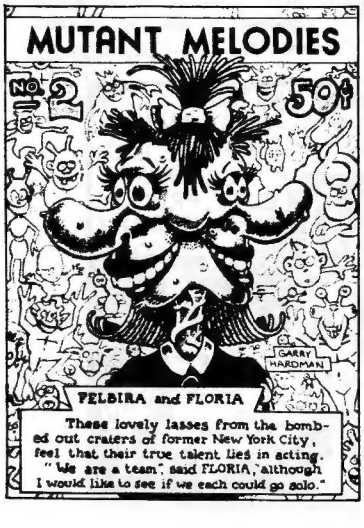
COMIX PLUGOLA

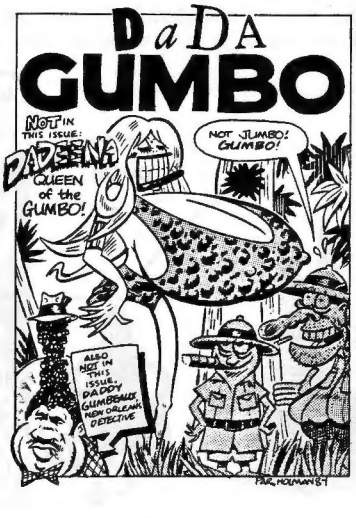
Pasternak's EARTH FIND; Dissmeyer's UNWELCOME AWARENESS, and FRIED BRAINS 21; 50/22¢ stamp ea. from COMIX WAVE.* GOT MY EYES ON YOU 1 is 50¢/stamp from Par Holman, 1097 Ea Webster Dr., Sandy, UT 84070.* GRAFICOMIX COMPUTER DADA is 50¢/stamp from C. E. Emmer, 2910 West Ashland Ave., Muncie, IN 47304.* FIRECRACKERS 3 is 50¢/stamp from William Dockery, 3226 River Ave., Columbus, GA. 31904 (See Bill's ad).* The following are available from Dada Gumbo Press, 810 Glendale, Ashland, OR 97520: DADA GUMBO 8 ($1/22¢ st), WAITING FOR GUMMO (Siergey, 75¢/st), HARNESSING THE WHITE ELEPHANT (Willis & Luciano, Free for a 22¢ stamp), SPARKY AND B. N. DUNCAN VISIT THE LOWIE MUSEUM (Sparky & Duncan, 75¢/stamp), CARTOON CHARACTERS FOR THE NEW AGE (J. R. Williams, 75¢/st).* MUTANT MELODIES 1 is 50¢/st from Garry Hardman, R. D. 2, Box 155, Eureka Rd., Edinboro, PA 16412.* BIRD COMICS 1 is 50¢/st from Ozone Press, POB 313, Addison Sta., Dallas, TX 75001.* MYSTERIOUS VISIONS 1 and 2, DUNGAR THE BARBARIAN 2 & 3, are 25¢/stamp each from Ian Shires, 17914 N Inlet Dr., Strongsville, OH 44136.*


Harnessing the White Elephant
GAZEBO
Vol. 2, No. 1
ONE GULP OF THIS ALBINO PACHYDERM AND I'LL BE A FAMOUS ARTIST!
WHY AM I DOING THIS
?

Fatalistic Funnies




MUTANT MELODIES
NO 2
50¢
GARRY HARDMAN
FELBIRA and FLORIA
These lovely lasses from the bombed out craters of former New York City, feel that their true talent lies in acting. "We are a team," said FLORIA, "although I would like to see if we each could go solo."


DaDA GUMBO
NOT IN THIS ISSUE: CADEENA QUEEN of the GUMBO!
NOT JUMBO! GUMBO!
ALSO NOT IN THIS ISSUE: DADDY GUMBEAUX, NEW ORLEANS DETECTIVE
PAR HOLMAN '87

OZONE PRESS
bird
COMICS
No. 1
50¢
THIS YER CAR? GONNA NEED A LOTTA FRONT-END WORK... BRAKES ARE SHOT... WE'RE TALKIN SIX BILLS, EASY...
THE OILY BOID GETS THE WOIM!
'86 D. Tosh